

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

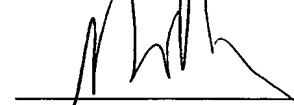
Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate additional limitations including those found in the allowed Claims 3 and 4. Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate limitations which were discussed with Examiner Camby on October 18, 2005. At that time, the Examiner indicated that Claim 1 as amended according to the present response defines over the applied prior art.

As was discussed with Examiner Camby, according to the present invention a compensating value based upon the temperature of the circuit board can increase or decrease the electric current command value output from the motor drive circuit (page 7, line 8 through page 8, line 12). In contrast, according to U.S. Patent 6,520,279 (Fukumoto et al), which was applied against Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the current command value may be limited --decreased but not increased-- to protect the relay from overheating. Thus, the sensor 18c of Fukumoto et al detects the temperature of the relays 18a and 18b and provides current limitation when the temperature is more than a predetermined value (column 12, lines 9-17). Accordingly, the amended claims, which recite that the compensating value R increases or decreases the electric current command value, clearly defines over this reference.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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